



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 13, 1998

### **S. 1718**

**A bill to amend the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 to authorize the acquisition of additional acreage for the historic site to permit the development of visitor and administrative facilities and to authorize the appropriation of additional amounts for the acquisition of real and personal property**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on July 22, 1998*

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1718 would cost the federal government between \$4 million and \$9 million over the next five years and less than \$500,000 annually thereafter. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1718 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 1718 would authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire up to 15 acres of land near the Weir Farm National Historic Site to construct visitor and administrative facilities. The acquired land would be added to the boundary of the historic site. The bill would require that the NPS, before developing this land, execute agreements with local authorities for providing parking and managing bus traffic. Finally, the bill would increase the limit on appropriations for land acquisition at the site from \$1.5 million to \$4 million.

CBO estimates that purchasing additional land near Weir Farm would cost between \$0.8 million and \$2 million, depending on the number of acres the NPS chooses to acquire and on the property's value, which will be determined by future appraisals. We estimate that the cost of constructing visitor and administrative facilities on the acquired site would be about \$7 million. According to the NPS, private organizations could finance as much as one-half of this amount; if so, the federal share of the project would be about \$3.5 million. Federal receipts would probably not be affected because these organizations would likely provide their contribution to the project directly or in kind. CBO estimates that annual costs

to operate the new facilities would be between \$300,000 and \$400,000, beginning after fiscal year 2003. These estimates are based on information provided by the NPS and assume appropriation of the necessary amounts.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.